

Lakewood Pipeline

Last Updated Monday, 01 October 2007

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Next Steps:

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Sugar Loaf Road traffic delays expected

Sunday, Oct. 7 - Saturday, Oct. 13

Work hours:

7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Travelers can expect minor delays to accommodate alternating one-way traffic on Sugar Loaf Road, between mile markers one and two. The city of Boulder will be completing an internal inspection of portions of the Lakewood Pipeline in the area. Adverse weather or other unforeseen circumstances could lead to extended work hours and/or delay the completion of the inspection.

For more information, visit www.boulderutilities.net and click on "Projects & Programs" or call (303) 441-3266.

- Results of the inspection will be provided as soon as they are released.
- Lakewood Pipeline Inspection Plan - October 2007

Background Information

Lakewood pipeline delivers water from the city's Silver Lake Watershed to the Betasso Water Treatment Plant where it is treated and then distributed for municipal use. During reconstruction of Phase III of the Lakewood Pipeline in 2002 and 2003, the city discovered weld and lining issues in the pipe supplied to construct the final phase of Lakewood Pipeline.

Four internal pipe inspections have been completed since Lakewood Pipeline Phase III began operating in May 2004. The first inspection was performed in October 2004, second in April and May 2005, third in October 2005 and the fourth in March and April 2006. Observations from the first two years of pipeline operation were obtained from the four inspections. Subject to water delivery requirements, the next inspection is planned for the fall of 2007, after which, staff will update City Council on the results.

The four inspections to date have established that the cracks are not getting wider, but they haven't closed or healed. While the mortar lining is physically intact throughout the Lakewood Pipeline, not all of the Phase III lining is bonded to the underlying steel. Corrosion exists in local areas near and adjacent to the cracks at the lining-steel interface. The quantity of cracks does not appear to be increasing.

If corrosion continues, pipeline remediation measures would likely begin in the next couple of years before the corrosion can progress to a point that would compromise the pipeline integrity.

Technical evaluations to date do not indicate imminent danger of pipeline rupture. In light of the considerable environmental, social and economic effects that would be associated with a large repair or replacement effort, staff believes the most prudent course of action is to continue to monitor pipeline conditions and arrange for repair/replacement if it becomes necessary. Public safety and water supply reliability will continue to be paramount in the evaluation.

Background Documents:

- Weekly Information Packets (WIP) to City Council

- WIP to City Council dated July 19, 2007
- WIP to City Council dated June 21, 2007

- Inspection Reports (these are large documents that may take time to open)

- Phase III - Inspection Report #1
- Phase III - Inspection Report #2
- Phase III - Inspection Report #3
- Phase III - Inspection Report #4

- Maps and Drawings

- Project Vicinity Map

- Elevation Profile
- Background information on the original construction of Lakewood Pipeline

Contact Information:

Joe Taddeucci

(303) 441-3205

taddeuccij@bouldercolorado.gov

Robert Harberg

(303) 441-3124

harbergb@bouldercolorado.gov

Ned Williams

(303) 441-3200

williamsn@bouldercolorado.gov